REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-16, 20, and 36-38 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5, 7-12, and 36-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over "HTML 4.0 Specification" (hereinafter "HTML") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,974,416 to Anand et al. (hereinafter "Anand"). Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over HTML in view of Anand and further in view of "Hyperactions in a Markup Language." Claims 13-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over HTML in view of Anand and further in view of "Distributed Databases." Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over HTML in view of Anand and further in view of "Distributed Databases" and "Module mod_log_common." Claims 6 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over HTML in view of Anand and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,826,034 to Albal.

HTML discloses the building blocks for any HTML-based document, including such items as tables having columns and rows.

Anand discloses a method and tabular data stream format "for marshaling tabular data for transfer between clients and servers" (column 2, lines 3-12). In the method of Anand, a user queries a remote database via a client process. This query is sent to a Web server, which queries databases via a database interface (column 4, line 62 to column 5, line 3; column 5, lines 46-53).

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The information is retrieved from the databases and is sent back to the user, via an Advanced Data TableGram (ADTG) format. The user manipulates a local copy of the retrieved data. If the user makes changes to the data, the changes are uploaded to the databases via the ADTG format. (See column 7, line 45 to column 8, line 3.)

While the method and data format of Anand permit a user to indirectly manipulate data stored in one or more remote databases, the disclosures of HTML and Anand, taken together, do not disclose the features of the present invention. In particular, the cited references do not disclose a type of search that matches information in a key phrase field and in each of a plurality of column headings, as recited in independent claim 1 of the present invention. Anand contains no mention of the types of queries that are performed; the key feature disclosed in Anand is that a query returns data in a tabular format, according to the ADTG format defined in the specification. There is no hint or suggestion in Anand that would lead one skilled in the art to create a query that is a combination of a key phrase field and a column heading as recited in the present invention.
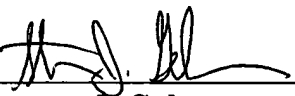
It is respectfully submitted that the remarks made herein place pending claims 1, 3-16, 20, and 36-38 in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this amendment as well as reconsideration and allowance of pending claims 1, 3-16, 20, and 36-38 are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner does not believe that the claims are in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at 215-568-6400.

Respectfully submitted,

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